

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 JUSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 EB-07

FEA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /101 W

----- 118296

R 131605Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9345

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENNA 6772

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OPEC, ENRG, AU

SUBJ: CALL ON OPEC INFORMATION OFFICER

REF: VIENNA'S 6715

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1. IN A RECENT CALL ON CHIEF OF OPEC'S INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT ZAHERI, HE DISCUSSED FOLLOWING POINTS
WITH EMBOFFS.

2. HE CONFIRMED LOCAL PRESS ARTICLES CONCERNING
OPEC'S SPECIAL FUND. THE \$400 MILLION REMAINING IN
THE FUND AFTER THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT (IFAD) OBLIGATION IS DEDUCTED WILL BE
DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN (A) ASSISTANCE FOR BALANCE
OF PAYMENT DEFICITS AND (B) SPECIAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS
AMONG THE RECIPIENT COUNTRIES.

3. AS REGARDS THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, ZAHERI
QUOTED CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING COMMITTEE OF OPEC'S
SPECIAL FUND, YEGANEH, AS SAYING THE TALKS "WERE NOT
GOING WELL" AND THAT HE, ZAHERI, WAS "PESSIMISTIC".
HE DECLINED TO ELABORATE.

4. ZAHERI COMPLAINED OF BEING OVERWORKED AND UNDER-
STAFFED DUE TO THE NUMEROUS MEETINGS BEING HELD IN
VIENNA. THE FINANCE MINISTERS MEETING HAD JUST ENDED
(5-6 AUGUST) AND THE GAS COMMITTEE WAS CURRENTLY
MEETING IN OPEC HEADQUARTERS. ZAHERI IS LOOKING FORWARD
TO AN INCREASE OF TWO STAFF MEMBERS SOON IN HIS OWN
DEPARTMENT: AN INFORMATION OFFICER AND A PUBLICATIONS
OFFICER. ZAHERI HOPES THEN TO HAVE MORE TIME FOR
CONTACTS WITH THE EMBASSIES. (APROPOS OPEC MEETINGS,
FROM OTHER SOURCES IT IS KNOWN THAT THE GOVERNING
COMMITTEE OF OPEC'S SPECIAL FUND MET ON 7 AUGUST
ALSO AT THE HOFBURG AND THAT THE WORKING COMMITTEE
OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION BOARD WILL MEET ON
AUGUST 16 AND THE ECB ON AUGUST 23).

5. EMBASSY MENTIONED PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT AN
EXTRAORDINARY OIL MINISTERS CONFERENCE ON OIL PRICES
BEFORE THEIR SCHEDULED DECEMBER MEETING IN DOHA.
ZAHERI DID NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY AND INDICATED
HE THOUGHT THAT, ALTHOUGH NO FORMAL REQUEST FOR AN
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HAD BEEN MADE BY AN OPEC MEMBER,
DISCUSSIONS AMONG MINISTERS REGARDING SUCH A MEETING
WERE UNDERWAY.

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6. DETAILS CONCERNING OPEC'S MOVE TO NEW QUARTERS
WERE COVERED IN REFTEL, INCLUDING INFORMATION FROM
EMBOFF'S MEETING WITH ZAHERI.

7. COMMENT: REGARDING SPECULATION ABOUT AN EXTRA-
ORDINARY MINISTERIAL MEETING, EMBOFF COMMENTED TO
ZAHERI THAT FROM PRESS REPORTS YAMANI DID NOT APPEAR

INCLINED TO ATTEND ONE. ZAHERI REPLIED THAT YAMANI
"IS A POLITICIAN." WE NOTE THAT ZAHERI IS AN IRANIAN
AND WONDER IF HE MAY NOT BE REFLECTING IRANINA DESIRES
REGARDING AN EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE.MEEHAN

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04 MAY 2006

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